

**CALFED Ecosystem Roundtable
Meeting Notes for June 16, 1999**

Roundtable members (or their alternates) and liaisons present:

Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)
Steve Evans (FOR)
Bill Gaines (CWA)
Greg Gartrell (CCWD)
Walt Hoyer (MWD)
Dan Keppen (NCWA)
Steve Macaulay (SWC)
Hari Modi (NCPA)

John Mills (RCRC)
Jason Peltier (CVPWA)
David Yardas (EDF)
Tom Zuckerman (CDWA)

Patrick Leonard (FWS)
Theresa Pacheco (ACOE)
Susan Ramos (BOR)
Carolyn Yale (EPA)

Restoration Coordinator's Update

- 1) There are a number of amendments to projects that have been requested. The Roundtable Amendment Subcommittee will meet sometime in July to discuss those.
- 2) CALFED will be bringing consultant Don Glaser back to review and provide recommendations on the decision-making process for selecting projects under the Restoration Coordination Program, and the role of the Ecosystem Roundtable in that process. Copies of the report he produced earlier in the year which reviews the program were distributed at the meeting.

Battle Creek

An MOU for the Battle Creek Project has been completed, and copies were distributed at the meeting. A letter from the Environmental Defense Fund raised three concerns which were discussed and resolved. The issues include ensuring that an Adaptive Management Plan be developed, that a final implementation budget should be brought back to the Roundtable for review and concurrence, and that flow changes at the time of license renewal will be based upon changes that result from the adaptive management program and process.

1999 Funding Recommendations

Ecosystem Roundtable members first declared any conflicts of interest. Wendy Halverson Martin then presented the policy issues associated with the 34 projects recommended for funding. These are access to private lands, county notification, and Roundtable agencies identified as participants/collaborators on proposals. Additional administrative issues included lack of inclusion of appropriate state and federal forms and receivable authority of state agencies. Wendy recommended that CALFED staff resolve the administrative issues.

Wendy briefly described the 34 projects recommended for funding as well as seven directed programs under the 1998 Non-native Invasive Species Program and one directed program under the 1998 Flood Control Habitat Bypass Program that are being submitted for approval. Considerable discussion occurred regarding proposal C118 - Yuba Tools. Due to time constraints, the Roundtable was not able to complete a recommendation on the entire package. They recommended the eight directed programs be forwarded as well as 17 of the 34 projects which did not have any policy or administrative issues associated with them. They scheduled two additional meetings to finish their deliberations. The Issues Subcommittee will meet on June 24 to develop a process for dealing with the policy issues. The full Roundtable will meet on July 6th to finish their recommendation on the package. One member noted dis-satisfaction with the entire process.

Environmental Water Acquisition Proposals

The Roundtable discussed and recommended two environmental water acquisition proposals, one on the Stanislaus River and one on the San Joaquin River. The Stanislaus River acquisition is for 50,000 acre-feet from Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District during the 1999 irrigation season at New Melones Reservoir. The cost of this acquisition is approximately \$3 million dollars. The Roundtable requested that this purchase be contingent upon release during summer or early fall to benefit water quality in the central delta. They also requested a response be prepared to the letter from the Central Delta Water Agency. Additionally, they asked for clarification of CALFED's policy on the economic aspects of water re-use. The Friant Water Users pilot program will release 43,000 acre feet of water at a cost of approximately \$2.5 million dollars. In relation to both projects, concern was raised about the need for a long-term water acquisition strategy. A commitment was made by CALFED to initiate development of a framework for long-term acquisitions.

Public Comment

None.

Future Meetings

July 6, July 22, August 26, September 22, October 8 (workshop), October 13.